

ON THE LECTOTYPIFICATION OF *EVONYMUS ATROPURPUREUS*
JACQ. (CELASTRACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

A Jacquin specimen at BM is hereby designated the lectotype of *Evonymus atropurpureus* Jacq.; it is the sheet from which the published figure was drawn.

KEY WORDS: *Evonymus*, Celastraceae, North America, woody plants

A specimen which is original material of *Evonymus atropurpureus* Jacq. (the spelling of *Evonymus*, not *Euonymus*, has been a never ending source of debate which only recently has been resolved by the wording of Art. 13.4 of the present International Code of Botanical Nomenclature [Greuter, *et al.* 1988]) has been located in the herbarium at The Natural History Museum in London (BM). A close comparison of the Jacquin sheet with his published illustration of *E. atropurpureus* revealed the specimen to be nearly identical, so much so that the specimen was clearly the element from which the drawing had been made. Apparently of garden origin, the sheet probably came from one of the botanical gardens in Vienna with which Jacquin was associated (D'Arcy 1970). Given the difficulties with the typification of Jacquin names, as discussed by D'Arcy, to find an element so clearly unequivocal was surprising. Accordingly, the following lectotypification is proposed.

Evonymus atropurpureus Jacq., *Hort. Bot. Vindob.* 2:55, pl. 120. 1772-1773.
LECTOTYPE (selected here): garden specimen, *Jacquin s.n.* (BM).

The lectotype was discovered in the course of a search for John Clayton specimens at BM which were used by Carl Linnaeus to describe temperate North American vascular plants. One, *Clayton 810* (BM!), proved to be a collection of *Evonymus atropurpureus* Jacq. (Celastraceae). Prior to his

death, Gronovius sent to Jacquin a series of fragments from the Clayton collections then in his possession. Later, Sir Joseph Banks acquired not only the Gronovius herbarium, but that of Jacquin as well, thereby reuniting the once dispersed Clayton specimens. Usually, a Jacquin fragment of a temperate North American plant proves to be a Clayton specimen, but in this instance, that was not the case.

One of the nomenclatural tragedies associated with early temperate North American botany is that Gronovius (1762) failed to apply Linnaean binomials in the second edition of his *Flora Virginica*, thereby rendering his (and Clayton's) many new species historical curiosities. One such species is *Evonymus atropurpureus*. Clayton's plant was given a polynomial, *Evonymus foliis lanceolato-oblongis serratis petiolatis, capsula quadriloculari*, by Gronovius (p. 33), but without a corresponding binomial, the name is invalid. Thus, another species Clayton knew well to be undescribed remained unnamed for another decade.

According to Aiton (1789), *Evonymus atropurpureus* was introduced into England in 1756, but there is no record as to the source of the seeds. There is a single, undated garden specimen at BM that probably was gathered in the late 1700s, and an unattributed North American specimen (BM) that outwardly appears to be a John Bartram collection, but it, too, is undated. As both Bartram and Clayton were sending seeds to various gardeners in England at this time, the source of the garden material ultimately gathered by Jacquin in Vienna could have been from either man.

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